

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the present amendment is respectfully requested.

Claims 8, 16 and 18 are pending in this application.

The allowance of claim 18 is acknowledged with appreciation.

Claims 8 and 16 have been rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being obvious over the combination of Flekenstein et al., Hathorn, and Szigethy. To establish obviousness of a claimed invention, the prior art references when combined, must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. In addition, there must be some suggestion or motivation to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify the reference (MPEP §706.02(j)).

Claim 16 has been amended. Antecedent basis for the amendments is found in the drawing and in the specification page 3 lines 16-29. Amended claim 16 is patentable over the cited combination of patents to Flekenstein et al., Hathorn, and Szigethy.

Concerning the patent to Hathorn, notch 24 is not a contact surface area of a fastening part onto which a contact surface area from a fastening arm engages to secure them together against a tension force that tends to pull them apart. The concave surface area of notch 24 serves only for spreading the fastening arms apart upon detaching a mandrel 19 by rotating it about 90 degrees.

The contact surface areas on the fastening arms to be considered as corresponding to, or equivalent to the contact surface areas on a fastening arms according to the invention,

are surface areas with reference number 29 in Figure 6 of Hathorn. As further can be seen from Figure 4, surface areas 29 lie against flat contact surface areas provided on the mandrel 19. Further, it is stated in claim 1, page 2 lines 8-10 of Hathorn that the notch surface adjacent the inner mandrel end is plane i.e. not concave.

Concerning the patents to Szigethy and Felkenstein, these patents do not disclose or suggest an apparatus according to claim 16 including all the limitations recited therein. The combination of Szigethy and Fleckstein et al. does not disclose a fastener part with a concave contact surface area into which contact surface areas of the hooks engage in a connected condition. Neither the patent to Fleckstein et al. nor the patent to Szigethy disclose or suggest a fastener part comprising a concave contact surface area into which contact surface areas of the hooks engage in a connected condition. In addition, the combination of the patent to Fleckstein et al. and the patent to Szigethy does not disclose or suggest a fastener part configured integrally with a steering wheel, and fastening arms configured integrally with an inflator mount. The concave surface of the fastener part in claim 16 gives a better hold to the contact surface areas of the hooks, as compared to a flat surface in the art of record. The combination of Szigethy, Fleckenstein and Hathorn do not disclose or suggest all the limitations of claim 16. Thus, claim 16 should be allowable.

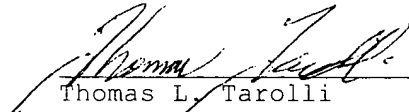
Claim 8 depends from claim 16 and defines over the prior art for the same reasons as claim 16 and for the specific

limitations recited therein. The combination of the cited prior art references does not disclose or suggest that the fastening part and the fastening arms comprise ramps corresponding to each other and including all the limitations of claim 16. Thus, claim 8 should be allowable.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the above-identified application is in condition for allowance, and allowance of the above-identified application is respectfully requested.

Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in the fees for this amendment to our Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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